

the site for the nuclear repository for this country.

President Obama defunded the Yucca Mountain project, and let me tell you why he took this very bold step: because 77 percent of the people of the State of Nevada do not want nuclear waste stored at Yucca Mountain. There are groundwater issues, seismic activity, volcanic activity, and it is 90 miles from the major population center of Las Vegas.

It is dangerous. There are no current EPA standards. And why is that? No current EPA radiation standards, because there is no way to set radiation standards for material that has a radioactive half shelf life of 300,000 years. But the Republican budget that has just been submitted resurrects Yucca Mountain and starts the process of dumping another \$100 billion into a hole in the Nevada desert where there will never, ever be any nuclear waste stored.

At the same time that the majority is calling for spending more money to dump nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, they are also pushing for devastating cuts that will end the loan guarantees for a new solar power plant in the State of Nevada near the community of Tonopah. The result will be the loss of 600 jobs at a time when the Silver State has double-digit unemployment. Almost 15 percent of the people who live in Nevada have no job, and they are going to take away 600 more by this very foolish act. Construction of this new solar plant will not only provide hundreds of paychecks to Nevada workers, it will also supply enough clean and renewable energy to power 75,000 homes in the State of Nevada. Without these loan guarantees that are now on the Republican chopping block, this solar project's bright future is looking mighty, mighty dim.

Tapping renewable energy sources, like the wind and solar and geothermal, all in great abundance in the State of Nevada, is where the future of this Nation and certainly Nevada's energy needs are.

Do we want to continue to rely on the Saudis and the Venezuelans and the Libyans for our energy needs to be met? I don't think so. Renewable is the way to go.

This Nation and Nevada's future is in clean energy, not in nuclear waste stored at Yucca Mountain, yet the Republicans want to cut funding for solar and other renewable resources that can be harnessed to provide clean energy and jobs for our local workers. And they are pushing these cuts while calling for \$100 billion to be dumped down a hole in the middle of the Nevada desert, as I said, 90 miles from a major population center.

I reject these efforts to restore the funding to Yucca Mountain. It is more wasteful spending at a time when they are talking about fixing the deficit. This is no way to do it by adding an extra \$100 billion. And I will make this pledge to you now: There will be no nu-

clear waste shipped to Yucca Mountain because it will be shipped over my dead body. I will lay across those railroad tracks and stop that train from depositing nuclear waste in my great State.

I oppose the cuts as much as I oppose the funding of Yucca Mountain. I oppose the cuts in the solar energy loan guarantee program that will cut 600 jobs from the State of Nevada and prevent us from moving forward for a bright, renewable energy future.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL RAYMON JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this morning with great sorrow but also with great honor to celebrate the life of Lance Corporal Raymon Johnson, who answered his Nation's call of duty in 2007 after graduating from Shaw High School in 2006. On October 13, 2010, he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country and protecting his country and fellow servicemen abroad. He was killed while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Johnson was deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He leaves behind his mother, Gwendolyn; his father, Gregory; a sister, LaQuita; and a brother, Ramon, who serves in the Georgia National Guard. He also leaves behind a nephew, Andre.

Raymon desired to become a United States Marine from an early age. Family members recall Raymon spending hours playing military video games and watching the military channel when he was a teenager. Raymon began training to enter the service even before he graduated from high school, and he passed up recruitment offers from the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force to join the Marines. Many family members were apprehensive about Raymon joining the Marines, but he felt it was his duty to serve. He told his family: Don't try to worry about me much, I'm glad I'm doing what I always wanted to do.

Friends and family members who recalled Raymon remember a young man who was not only driven to serve his country, but also someone who was caring, compassionate, and filled with integrity. At his funeral, a teary-eyed Ramon Johnson, his twin brother, remembered the good times he and his brother had baking cakes with their grandmother. His uncle, a reverend and former Marine, said Raymon wanted to fight for a cause.

Like all men and women in the armed services, Lance Corporal Johnson wanted to serve his country bravely, and he did. He took satisfaction in his job every day because he knew his

work touched so many millions of people. He was encouraged every day because he truly felt the Afghani people appreciated what the U.S. military is doing.

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He desired to build a school for the Afghani children once the Taliban had been driven out.

No words can express the loss of Lance Corporal Johnson's family and how they feel. And I'm proud to salute such a fine young son, brother, uncle, and friend.

The young men and women of our armed services continue to make great sacrifices every day for the Nation that they love and a Nation that will never forget to remember the debt that they have paid.

Thank you, Raymon Johnson.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND OUR NATION'S PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it's been 2 years, 5 months, and 23 days since Lehman Brothers collapsed and the Wall Street dominos began to fall. It's been 2½ years since Wall Street mortgage bond traders and their criminal management brought the world financial system to its knees.

There hasn't been one person held accountable for it. Not one conviction. The biggest scandal in American history, and there's been no jail time for anyone.

We Democrats cleaned up the mess. We saved the country from riots in the streets. But no one was convicted. I think a lot of voters, Tea Party voters included, are seething with anger about the injustice.

Riding this wave of voter anger, 2 weeks ago this House passed one of the worst bills ever considered in Congress, H.R. 1, a bill the Republicans have called a "budget," that was nothing less than an attack on children and working people in this country. I think all the people who voted for it should be ashamed.

Budgets are moral documents. They say what a country's priorities are. But looking at what the Republicans passed in this House, it's hard to believe that the bill is what Tea Party voters really bargained for in the last election.

In the papers this week, we're reading that the Tea Party freshmen are now going to school. They are taking classes on the Federal budget—"Budget 101" is what they call it. So after they balanced the books of the country entirely on the backs of children and women, they are actually learning a thing or two about the budget. It's about time. They're learning the basics after the vote.

But I don't think the Tea Party voters wanted a war on children. Tea Party freshmen certainly didn't run on